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PROGRAM The Daily Drum

STATION WHUR Radio

DATE July 23, 1982 6:00 PM CITY Washington DC

SUBJECT U.S. Special Forces

FLOYD DONALD: A military group that became well known during the Vietnam War is being resurrected for possible duty in the Middle East and Europe.

WHUR Pentagon correspondent Bill Christian takes a look at the return of the United States Special Forces.

BILL CHRISTIAN: Conceived during the 1960s, the Army's elite commando division, the Special Forces, had slipped into relative obscurity after the end of the Vietnam War. Budget cuts over the years also contributed to its demise. But a source close to the Defense Department says Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is breathing new life into the special forces, or Green Berets.

Weinberger is said to have asked that some funds be added to the 1983 budget for use by the Special Forces. The order coincides with President Reagan's decision to authorize increased so-called clandestine activities for the CIA, which is known to use the resources of Special Forces groups. This was the case during the Vietnam War when special American groups operated inside North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

It is said that Weinberger also envisions a role for the Green Berets in a possible war in Europe and the Middle East.

Bill Christian, WHUR News.

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